

CIVIL WAR 1864

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WAR EPISODES

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Civil War Episodes

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Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

RETURN OF THE 111TH REGIMENT.—The gallant old 111th Regiment, which has seen more hard fighting, done more active duty and obtained a wider reputation, in proportion to the term of service it has performed, than almost any other in the country, returned to this city, on Thursday afternoon, and was accorded a brilliant and most appropriate reception. Information of its coming was received several days before, and arrangements made to receive the regiment in a fitting manner. The ladies of the city prepared a sumptuous repast in Wayne Hall, the public buildings and many of the private ones were richly decked with flags, emblems and mottoes were displayed in tasteful profusion, and the whole city turned out to welcome the brave soldiers who had periled so much for the cause they hold dear.

The arrival of the train was announced to the public by the ringing of the Court House bell, and at once a vast stream of people poured towards the depot. When the soldiers alighted from the cars they were welcomed with three rousing cheers, and their radiant faces told in language plain enough the delight which they felt at being home once more.— Mothers and sisters rushed up to greet the sons and the brothers from whom they had been parted so long, and the scenes of endearment which followed were too numerous and too sacred to describe. Many of the noble fellows could not restrain their emotion, and found the tears creeping up and filling their eyes, very much apparently in opposition to their sense of manly honor.

The regiment marched down State street, escorted by Mehl's Band and the marines and crew of the Michigan. Lieut. Col. Walker was in command, in the absence of Col. Cobham, who, we believe, is on a visit to his home in Warren. The regiment was accompanied by a portion of the battery commanded by Capt. Leutje, numbering about a dozen men. Both sides of the street were crowded with spectators, many of whom, in their eagerness to see friends in the regiment, pressed into the lines, and were obliged to be forced back by the soldiers.

In front of Brown's Hotel the regiment halted, formed into close column, and was welcomed home in a short speech, by John P. Vincent, Esq., which was very neatly worded and well spoken. Col. Walker replied in a few remarks which we have never heard excelled for pointed and modest expression. He thanked the citizens warmly for their kind reception, and said the best encouragement a soldier could have was the knowledge that his acts were approved by the friends at home.— He did not take any of this warm reception to himself; it was all for the gallant fellows whom he had the honor of commanding. He could testify that they were worthy of everything their fellow citizens might do for them. Without exception, officers and men, they had

faithfully performed their duty. He might have helped a little, in his humble way, to uphold the sacred flag against the attacks of those who would destroy our national glory, but he could have done nothing had he not been so nobly sustained by his soldiers. We, of course, give only a summary of the Colonel's remarks, which, if possible, we hope to see printed in full. They did credit alike to him as a man, a soldier and a public speaker. During these ceremonies, there were repeated cheers, and the whole passed off very finely.

The soldiers then marched to Wayne Hall, where a large number of ladies were in waiting, who gave the regiment a most cheering reception. A neat speech of welcome was made by Mrs. Grove H. Johnson, President of the Ladies' Aid Society, which was responded to by Col. Walker, in remarks about the same in substance as his speech before Brown's Hotel. A blessing was pronounced by the Chaplain, after which the "boys" partook of the good things prepared for them with a relish that was both gratifying and amusing. It requires one to live on "hard tack" for over two years, as they have done, to enable the reader to appreciate the way in which they "dove" into the rich entertainment the ladies had provided for them.

With the dinner closed the public proceedings, which did credit to all who participated in arranging them. All agreed in saying that they were signally appropriate and successful. The speeches were not too long, as is usually the case, the conduct of the people was remarkably orderly, the ceremonies were not so demonstrative as to be tiresome, and everything, in short, seemed to be done at the right time, at the right place, and in the right way.

The regiment numbers about 280 officers and privates. It brought with it two regimental flags—the one presented by the State and the other by the National Government. They are nearly cut to pieces, and speak in language stronger than pen can write the fearful dangers and destruction of war. The men look robust and lively, but are far from presenting the holiday appearance they did when they left. Indeed in every respect—the reduced condition of the ranks, the worn and faded uniforms, the veteran character of the troops, the ribbowed and almost totally destroyed flags—the regiment presents a sad and striking contrast to what it did, when a little more than two years ago, it marched through the streets of our city, every company full, every eye kindling with patriotic zeal, every uniform clean and neat, every rifle polished like the wares in a jeweller's store, causing all our hearts to swell with genuine pride that Erie county could boast of having had a share in its formation, and cheered onward by the shouts and smiles of thousands of spectators.

Jan. 1864

Oration to the Thirty-First.

The reception of the Thirty-first Regiment by our citizens yesterday was a grand affair, and they deserve great praise for the zeal and heartiness with which they entered into it. The Committee of Arrangements had taken all necessary steps to give early information of the arrival of the gallant and scar-worn veterans, and the fact was announced that they would arrive on yesterday by a salute from the Artillery early in the morning. By ten o'clock the streets were thronged with people, carrying baskets laden with good things, and several long tables were soon set in the Market House, which soon groined beneath their loads of provisions. The Regiment arrived at the depot about one o'clock, and were received by hundreds of citizens, headed by the Terre Haute Band, and escorted to the Market House, amid the ringing of bells, firing of cannon, streaming banners, and shouts of rejoicing from the people. Arrived at the place appointed for the reception exercises, the scene beggars description. After order had been partially restored, the boys were marched to the tables, and we do not exaggerate when we say they did ample justice to the splendid dinner provided for them. After they had refreshed themselves, the crowd was called to order, and Col. R. W. Thompson, "welcomed them home from the war" in the following address:

COLONEL THOMPSON'S SPEECH.

It was an honored and cherished custom amongst the ancients to cultivate the martial spirit of their people, as the means of defending themselves against aggression. Their young men were stimulated by rewards for athletic exercises, and the brows of the victors were decked with leaves of laurel. When their soldiers returned from war they were met at the outer walls of their cities, and received with heartfelt rejoicings and generous welcome. In imitation of this custom, you, the officers and soldiers of the 31st Indiana Regiment, find yourselves now surrounded by almost the entire population of this city, who come here, with outstretched arms and grateful heart, to testify their appreciation of the gallant and self-sacrificing services you have rendered in the cause of our common and beloved country. They, with a unanimous voice, have deputed him to assure the members of the regiment, in their name, that they are welcome, a thousand times welcome, to their homes again. When you left us, nearly two years and a half ago, to go forth to battle for the preservation and perpetuity of the government, you carried along with you our prayers to the Giver of all good for your own personal safety and the success of your arms; and these prayers have continued to go up, with increasing earnestness and fervor, during your long absence. Our affectionate remembrances have accompanied you through all your trials. In imagination we have followed you when, upon the long and weary march, you have reeled beneath the rays of a hot and scorching sun, and while you have contended with the cold and rain and sleet when the storm-king was abroad. We have thought of you when your tongues have been parched and your pulses quickened by the raging fever of the camp; and when you were bivouaced amid the deadly miasma. And we have known, full well, how quickly you have responded to the stirring music of the drum and fife, when the booming cannon summoned you to the bloody conflict, with an infuriated and reckless foe, who was seeking to tear down and trample upon the glorious old flag of your country.

And now when you return to your homes to mingle again with your old friends and neighbors, it is due to you, and most befitting in them, that they should testify, in this public manner, their appreciation of your sacrifices and services, and come out to greet you as they now do. Again then, he would assure them, in the name of the inhabitants of this city, that all the members of the 31st Regiment—officers and men—are welcome home again. And the cordiality of this welcome is increased, if it were possible to increase it, by the fact that you have reenlisted as veterans, and are ready to go forth once more to defend the old stars and stripes, and to "do battle" for the holiest of human causes. You have never yet turned your backs upon the enemy—as their broken columns at Donaldson, Shiloh, Stone River and Chicamunga testify—and we have no fears that you ever will. And therefore, your reenlistment and that of so many of your veteran compatriots, excites in our minds the hope, and almost the conviction, that in the spring campaign, which will soon open, the armies of the rebellion will be dispersed, and the banner of the nation—the beautiful symbol of its power—be planted upon every hill top and in every valley in the South.— And when that shall be accomplished what a proud and brilliant record will our own glorious and patriotic State have, when she comes to adorn the pages of her history with the heroism of her sons. They will sparkle over these pages like a gem of the purest light, whose lustre neither time nor accident can efface.— And you, gallant soldiers of the old 31st, can leave no prouder inheritance to your children than the assurance that, by your valor, intrepidity, and unflinching courage, shown upon some of the bloodiest battle fields of this bloody war, you have won for yourselves—both officers and men—one of the bright and shining spots upon these pages.

The campaigns in which you are soon to engage will not be so bloody, and protracted as those through which you have already passed. It will not need as many more blows to terminate the rebellion as it has required to bring it to its present paralyzed and hopeless condition. A few more fierce and dashing charges from our gallant army and we shall hear the death-rattle in its throat. I do not believe it will last till this time next year—and I have been confirmed in this belief within the last half hour. Just as I was about to commence speaking a paper reached me containing a Proclamation from the President of the United States, which, though the briefest is, nevertheless, the best he ever wrote. It has the ring of true metal about it, because it has ordered that on the 10th of March there shall be a draft for 500,000 men. There is something in that which stirs the blood and makes it course more rapidly through the veins—for it will assure the rebels, and all the world besides, that the President is in earnest, and that the

nation is in earnest. When the 300,000 heretofore called for shall be raised, and those due upon this call shall be added, we shall have such an army as the world never saw or read of before; one, not only strong enough to drive every rebel into the Gulf of Mexico, but strong enough to strike terror to the heart of the most warlike monarch in Europe. And as this army such march onward, avenging the insult to the flag which floats above it, let us hear no word of compromise or adjustment so long as there is a rebel in arms against the government. There is nothing to compromise. They have assailed the government and we are defending it. When they shall lay down their arms and submit to the laws, our armies will return home, and embrace again with joy, the pursuits of peaceful duty. Until they shall do this, let them march on with fresh impetuosity at every step, crushing whoever is before them, and trampling down every green blade of grass, until the last vestige of treason has been crushed out. I speak

strongly, but I feel strongly. I have no patience with the false and infamous pretence, that Southern rights were trampled upon by the government, and that cause was thereby given for this unnatural and most iniquitous war. What rights were trampled upon? Can any body tell? Is there a man to be found who will stultify himself by making the attempt? The leaders of this rebellion lost their places and their power, and as they saw these passing away from them, resolved in their madness to overthrow the government, because they could no longer control it as they pleased. It was an act of turpitude unparalleled in the world, and no man engaged in it has any rights under the Constitution which he seeks to destroy, and no claim to sympathy so long as he shall poise a dagger in his hand to strike at the heart of the freest and happiest nation on earth. In sending forth our armies to inflict upon them the punishment they deserve, I am not disposed to have them halted while hostilities upon constitutional laws shall be read to them. That is not the way to carry on a war. We have no use for constitutional lawyers when our own and the rebel army shall come together in the death grapple. That is the time to fight. My motto is—"war to the knife and the knife to the hilt" until not a traitor shall be left in the land who will dare to avow his treason.

We are occasionally counselled to stop fighting for fear we shall set free the negro slaves of Southern rebels. This counsel proceeds upon the idea that slavery must be preserved, though the government be lost. True loyalty, in my judgment, consists in the direct opposite of this:—that the government must be saved, though slavery shall be lost. And that's all there is about it—turn it and twist it as you may. The constitution is appealed to in behalf of slavery—as against the war power which it lodges in the hands of the President and which the army always carries with it. The constitution was made for peace,—not war. It confers peace powers,—not war powers. It directs the movements of the civil machinery,—not the movements of armies. It regulates the departments of government,—not military departments. The war power is not defined by it, but is taught by the universal customs of nations, which have prevailed so long that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." Did any body ever hear of a nation at war that did not do whatever it had the power to do, to weaken, to punish and to subjugate its enemies? History gives no account of such a nation, and I hope it will have no occasion to record of this nation that it has set the first example of such egregious folly. The South possessed their slaves well secured and protected by the constitution,—and if any body defended their rights to them more earnestly than I did, I do not know who it is, but not satisfied with this they went to war because they were not permitted to take them into free territories. This is what they called going to war for their rights. Well, they have got them with a vengeance, haven't they? Instead of extending slavery they have destroyed it. Instead of building up a Southern Confederacy with slavery as its cornerstone, they have themselves contrived a plan to break every servile tether in America. They are the only practical abolitionists in the country. Those who preceded them were mere theorists. And if the time shall come, as it probably will, when every slave in the land shall become a freeman, the impartial historian will be forced to record the fact, that slavery received its death blow from the hands of its defenders. Mr. Lincoln's Proclamation would have been powerless if their rebellion had not been the fulcrum upon which he poised his lever. He had no power, and he claimed none, to interfere with it, until they, "moved and seduced by the instigations of the Devil," forced him to unsheathe the sword of the Nation to defend its life. If the blows he now strikes with that sword fall

so heavily upon the "manacles of slavery" that they break beneath them, let those who have invited and defied the consequences; take and make the most of them.

But while we are congratulating you upon your return and looking forward, in anticipation, to the probable and speedy termination of the war and the restoration of the just authority of the Government, the festivities of this occasion are somewhat marred as we look over your thinned ranks and see that you have left many of your gallant comrades behind you. We need not ask you to tell us where they are for we know that they have fallen at the post of duty, and are now sleeping their last sleep. They have found their sepulchre upon the now lonely battle-field, where

"You've carved not a line, nor raised not a stone,
But left them alone in their glory."

But when the Nation comes to rear some proud monument to perpetuate the triumphs of this war, it will gather up their names and give them a lofty place upon its column. May they rest in peace. They have served their country well, and offered up their lives in its cause. We will cherish the remembrance of their virtues and their valor, and commend their spirits to the God who gave them.

Col. Thompson closed by drawing a bright picture of the future prosperity and power of the nation.

At the conclusion of his remarks, speeches were made by several other persons, when the immense crowd dispersed, the soldiers wending their way home, accompanied by their friends. It was truly a gala day, and we think the boys of the Thirty First will not soon forget their reception. After the crowd had all been refreshed at the tables, the remainder of the provisions were carefully gathered together, and carried to the Relief Rooms, where they will be dispensed to the needy by Capt. Hook. Long may the Thirty First wave!

Summary

VOL. XXVI.—NO. 39.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 25, 1864.

PRICE SEVEN CENTS.

THE REBELS HAVE NOT ABANDONED PETERSBURG.

The reports prevalent in New York to-day, that the Rebels had evacuated Petersburg is premature. The Government has received no such news. REBEL OPERATIONS—REBELS STILL ABLE TO DO A LOT OF DAMAGE.

The regular mailboxes brought up from City Point fifty-five Rebel deserters—among the number a captain—of whom desire to be released on taking the oath of allegiance. During the present week, one hundred and twenty-five deserters from a single Confederate Regiment have come into our lines. They speak discouragingly of the Rebel prospects, and say that notwithstanding the large accession of conscripts Lee has received, he cannot cope with Grant with any hope of success, as the conscripts will take the first opportunity to desert.

THE ARMY ARE HAVING TO BE PAID UP.

It is learned from an authorized source that warrants to complete the payment to the Army and Navy to date have to-day been signed by Secretary Fessenden. All of our articles are received payment in full as soon as the payment is made.

There are no suspended requisitions on the Treasury either than those relating to rearrangement of order of the proper authorities. There is a balance in the Treasury, showing that no further loans are needed at present.

MR. FREMONT HAS BEEN VERY HARD TO BRING DOWN THE PRICE OF GOLD.

Mr. Fremont has tried very hard to bring down the price of gold, and he has succeeded in reducing it from 270 to about 250, and promises to bring it still lower. Mr. Lincoln to-day requested an interview with Mr. Fremont, and gave him to understand that gold must not be permitted to go any lower. He was in receipt of telegrams from President Republicans in every part of the country, who are followed in large amounts of merchandise, who say they will be ruined if gold goes any lower, and that a panic will result which will certainly defeat Mr. Lincoln's election, no matter what military success he may achieve. The only cause of the fall of the price of gold is our recent military success, which give an assurance that the Rebellion will soon be overthrown, and of course, the heavy expenditure of money will stop. There has also been a positive reduction of the currency. From this time out it is believed that Mr. Fessenden will hold up and that more currency will be emitted, and that, consequently, the speculation in gold will have their own way for a time. The bulk of the mercantile community bought goods during the summer for the fall-trade, under the impression that gold would be at least 300. The present reduction, therefore, costs them heavy losses. Hence the pressure which Mr. Lincoln is bringing to bear upon Mr. Fessenden to have a collapse of prices.

THE RECENT CABBAGE CHANGES.

The removal of Postmaster-General Blair was not even generally known till this morning, when the correspondence was published, though among certain parties it was well known that Blair would become the moment ex-Secretary Chase publicly declared his intention to return to the support of the Administration. The whole thing is regarded here as a bargain between the Radicals and the Administration, and the former have got the best of it. Blair attended the regular Cabinet-meeting yesterday for the last time, when it was finally decided that he should be requested to resign.

ANOTHER RESIGNATION IN PROSPECT.

Secretary Fisher, of the Interior Department, will probably resign next week, as he shows signs of a vacant Indiana Federal Judgeship. It is said, will be granted if Fisher is defeated for Congress he will be transferred to the Interior portfolio.

REMARKS TO SENATE.

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THE DIFFICULTY BETWEEN THE BLAIRS AND FREMONT.

The quarrel between the Blair family and General Fremont is now of some three years' standing, and the history of the matter is a very curious one. It will be remembered that the Blairs are the persons who really invented Fremont—the founders of all his political celebrity, as well as of his own material fortune. It was old Frank Blair who discovered the Pathfinder in his obscurity, brought him thence, polished him up to make him presentable, and laid the wires which led to his nomination by the Philadelphia Convention of 1855. Had Fremont been chosen at the election which followed, the Blair family hoped to be the "power behind the throne," greater than the throne itself. The defeat of the Great Explorer, however, dashed the anticipations of the Blairs to the ground for the time. They were equally anxious to run Fremont in 1860, but the wires wouldn't work, owing to the tremendous hullabaloo raised by the Republicans all over the North about Seward.

THE ADVANCEMENT BY THE BLAIRS.

The maneuver of the Blairs, however, after Lincoln's election, secured for Fremont his position as head of the military Department of the West. His patrons hoped that Fremont, once installed, they could secure whatever else they needed, and so be enabled to gain an enormous power in the Republican party, both in the West and in the East.

THE ADVANCEMENT BY THE BLAIRS.

But the Pathfinder, who is a man of great pride of character, and who has no intimates who are expected of having itching palms of their own, would not give the Blairs any chance. In the contrast given out by his Department. The fact is, Fremont had long been chafing under the patronage of the gentlemen in question, and he was a greatly and justly entitled to be of the power they wielded, as to his personal dislike for the President himself, which it is likely that he shares with all decent people, it is obvious and instructive, in this connection, to remember the very subtle letter, which Mr. Blair wrote to Gen. Fremont in the early part of the war, and which Fremont, with a strange disregard of the proprieties of life, published when he quarreled with Blair. In that letter, Mr. Blair expressed his private opinion of Mr. Lincoln. He described his slowness and stupidity, and dilated upon his utter want of backbone in all emergency. As a revelation of what a Cabinet-minister thought of his chief, it is something quite amazing in the world of private correspondence. I would suggest that the *Evening Messenger* hunt up that letter, which was given to the world about the time that General Thomas's report on the condition of the Western Army was published. It would make a splendid campaign document.

THE ADVANCEMENT BY THE BLAIRS.

The most tremendous efforts have been made to induce General Fremont to withdraw from the Presidential race. Earnest entreaty, pathetic appeals, striking representations of the fact that he could not obtain one electoral vote, have all been resorted to in vain, to prevail upon the Pathfinder to give over his efforts at exploration on the verge of the Presidential chair. But he positively refused to do so unless Blair was kicked out of the Cabinet, and this ultimatum applied.

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FROM WASHINGTON

Sheridan's Victories Creating a Panic in Richmond.

All Reported Quiet in the Army of the Potomac.

PETERSBURG NOT ABANDONED.

Good News for our Sailors and Soldiers.

The Army and Navy to be Paid to Date.

AN IMPORTANT PEACE RUMOR.

The Confederate Government to Address the Northern People.

Old Abe Alarmed at the Fall in Gold.

THE RECENT CABINET CHANGES.

Another Resignation to Take Place Immediately.

WHY BLAIR RESIGNED.

Grand Conspiracy of the Administration.

THE PLOTS OF THE SHODDY GHOULS.

Dead Soldiers and Union Prisoners to Vote for Lincoln.

Our Sunday Morning Special Dispatches.

WASHINGTON, September 24.

THE RECENT CABINET CHANGES.—History of the Blair-Fremont Quarrel.—Why Blair Resigned.—Why Blair Resigned.—Why Blair Resigned.

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SHERIDAN'S VICTORIES CREATING PANIC IN RICHMOND.

Seventy refugees crossed the river from the Virginia shore, and succeeded in reaching that place. Some of them are from Richmond, and say that the news of Early's first defeat had reached there, and caused the greatest consternation and alarm. The Rebel officers, brought to Washington to-day from Point Lookout, to be transferred to Northern prison, will not believe that Sheridan has achieved victory in the Shenandoah Valley, as proclaimed in official dispatches.

ALL REPORTED QUIET IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Six paymasters, under a heavy escort, started for Sheridan's Army this morning, to pay off the troops of that command. They take a large amount of money with them, but heavy ample military protection.

PETERSBURG NOT ABANDONED.

Commodore Porter, of the Robtoms fleet, communicates the following to the Secretary of the Navy: "On the night of the 10th instant, one of the boats of the United States steamer *Carthage*, while in search of blockade-runners at the mouth of the Yorkes River, was fired into from the shore. Wm. King, captain of the boat, was instantly killed, and George H. McKim, first mate, severely wounded. The boat was promptly abandoned from the boats and the *Carthage*, and the *Carthage* was in the midst of the shore-party."

THE RECENT CABINET CHANGES.

There are 6,000 prisoners confined at Point Lookout, Md.

REBEL VICTORIES HAVE NOT BEEN LOST.

Henry Winter Davis will make his first campaign speech for Lincoln and Johnson at Elkton, Maryland, on Monday next. The Union men here and in Maryland are much gratified at this action.

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD RE-OPENED.

Baltimore & Ohio Railroad has been re-opened from three-months' derangement by the victory of Sheridan.

This result alone is of great importance, and much heightens the value of our success. The Cumberland coal and gas fields from the Alleghenies, and the heavy produce from West Virginia and the more distant States, can all come forward again to relieve the embargo and improve the market, which in every business and military sense the reconquest and use of the road will prove of the first importance.

Fifty miles of track have been restored, with five bridges and four miles of telegraph-poles, besides water-railroads and sidings. The victory occurred on Monday night last. On Tuesday night last, preparations for re-opening the road began, and the whole line will be in operation by Tuesday, the 27th instant.

The highest military authorities of the Government are taking such steps by occupation and fortification as will undoubtedly prevent any further serious interruption on the road, even if the war should continue much longer.

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to his grievous wounds. Mr. Lincoln's wound was finally healed, and the services of Blair has been the chief cause for Fremont's destination.

I don't know how you opponents of Lincoln feel in New York, but there is no intelligent person in Washington but what believes that he will be re-elected, and though the aid of the most extraordinary series of frauds ever brought to the consumption in this country.

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Today in Washington History

BY DONALD A. CRAIG.

August 5, 1864.—George Coburn, who was taken prisoner by the Confederates at his residence, near Mr. Blair's farm, in Montgomery County, Md., and was reported to have been shot by his captors, made his escape from the Confederates at Martinsburg and has returned to his home, it was learned here today. Mr. Coburn says that the Confederates compelled him to act as a guide while they were in Maryland.

When they arrived at Rockville on their recent retreat from the defenses of Washington, Mr. Coburn says, the Confederates placed him in irons and eventually carried him to Strasburg, Va., where he was informed by the Confederate general, Brad Johnson, that if he did not join the Confederate Army he would not be given anything to eat.

After holding out as long as he could, he says he found himself growing weak for want of something to eat and finally enlisted in the Confederate service, intending to escape at the first opportunity that presented itself. His opportunity came during the battle at Martinsburg between Hunter and the Confederates. He says the Confederates lost heavily in this engagement when their own troops fired into each other by mistake. So great was the confusion, Coburn says, that a six-pound shot fired by one of the Confederate batteries killed the horse he was riding before his escape.

Yesterday was celebrated as a day of humiliation and prayer for the success of the Union armies, by order of President Lincoln. There was a general cessation of business here and in other parts of the country, and services were held in the churches.

One of the features of the day was a big demonstration by the colored Sunday schools of Washington. For this purpose, President Lincoln granted the use of the grounds between the Executive Mansion and the War Department. The colored people assembled there in large numbers, and after religious services enjoyed themselves eating watermelons and partaking of other refreshments.

They showed their appreciation of the President's emancipation proclamation by displaying a banner, which they called "The Banner of Freedom," on which was a life-size picture of President Lincoln freeing the slaves.

WASHINGTON D C STAR
AUGUST 5, 1929



THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

Rebels Gain Florida Victory, Political Setback for North

By MERTON T. AKERS

United Press International

The battle of Olustee (or Ocean Pond) was described by a Union officer who was there as "one of the sideshows" of the Civil War but "a fair, square stand up fight" in the pine woods of northern Florida.

It was fought on Feb. 20, 1864, and culminated a campaign which had generous political overtones.

Florida was the least populous of the Confederate states. Little fighting had occurred there. Rebel troops in the state were few and mostly militia.

The states seemed to be a pushover for Federal forces. Occupation of a considerable part of the state would enable President Lincoln to put into effect his amnesty and reconstruction plan. Ten percent of the 1860 voters who took the oath of allegiance could set up a Loyal state government and elect members to Congress.

The President's political enemies pointed out that Florida under a Loyal government also could send a pro-Lincoln set of delegates to the '64 Republican nominating convention, too. He gave some color to the charges when he detached one of his secretaries, John Hay, made him a major and sent him to Florida to sign up voters. Hay also had been approached by Florida Unionists to become their candidate for Congress if the plan went through.

Hay in his brand new uniform with shiny gold leaves on his shoulders carried a letter from the President to Maj. Gen. Quincy A. Gillmore, commanding the department with headquarters at Hilton Head, S.C.

Lincoln explained his plan in the letter to Gillmore and continued:

"It is desirable for you to cooperate, but if irreconcilable differences of opinion shall arise, you are the master. I wish the thing done in the most speedy way possible, so that when done, it lie within the range of the late proclamation on the subject. I shall be greatly

This Week in The Civil War

United Press International
1864

Feb. 20—Confederates win battle at Olustee, Fla.

Union cavalry probed west toward Lake City where the Confederates were reported in force. The infantry followed but Gillmore ran into supply troubles. He had counted on using the rail line which ran west from Jacksonville to Tallahassee but he had only one balky locomotive. He ordered the troops back to Baldwin, west of Jacksonville, and instructed Seymour to hold that point. Gillmore then went back to Hilton Head to remedy his supply problem.

Seymour chafed four days under inactivity and on the fifth, hearing the Confederates were tearing up the railroad, marched west.

On the morning of Feb. 20 he reached Olustee, about a dozen miles east of Lake City.

Here Confederate sk came out of the woods at noon and fired on Seymour's—now reduced to about 5,500. They fell back into the thick. Seymour ordered his troops on. They were marching a narrow strip of firm ground each side was a bog. The Rebels a good mark and they poured fire from entrenchments. They were militia, as Seymour suspected, but they stood and broke the dense woods.

The 7th New Hampshire, about 5,000 which had repeating Spencer rifles, broke first.

A Negro regiment followed. Disorder multiplied on the narrow footing. Soon Seymour had to order a withdrawal. The battle lasted about four hours.

Back over the same roads the Federals retreated, faster than they had advanced.

The Confederates, commanded by Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, lumberman fighting his first battle, pursued until dark and then broke off.

The retreating bluecoats reached Baldwin, which Gillmore had told Seymour to hold, by the 21st but they did not stop there. By dawn the next day they were in Jacksonville.

The Federals lost 203 killed; 1,152 wounded; 506 missing—total 1,861; the Confederates, 93 killed; 841 wounded—total, 934.

That ended the campaign to occupy Florida although the Federals held the coast strip for the rest of the war. Gillmore relieved Seymour of command for not remaining in Baldwin as he had been told.

Hay's task of signing voters also suffered.

In Fernandina on March 1 he got a few more names. "Some refused to sign, on the ground that they were not repentant rebels," he wrote wryly.

He went on to Key West,

which the Federals held, for more signatures. He wrote that he found there a "decent darkey and a horse doctor," otherwise only "a race of thieves and a degeneration of vipers."

He gave up on March 3.

"I am very sure we cannot now get the President's one-tenth and that to alter the suffrage law for a bare title would not give us the moral force we need. The people of the interior would be indignant against such a snap judgment taken by incomers and would be jealous and sullen," he wrote.

Hay returned to Washington March 24 to read in anti-administration newspapers that Lincoln would not stop at murder for votes.

"Price of three votes for the Presidency; One thousand lives," the New York Herald bannered, stretching the casualties somewhat.

"Butchery to bring into Congress Hay, Lincoln's hireling and private servant," the Chicago Times said.

Hay went back to being a secretary.

you are the master. I wish the thing done in the most speedy way possible, so that when done, it lie within the range of the late proclamation on the subject . . . I shall be greatly obliged if you will give it such general supervision as you can find consistent with your strictly military duties."

Hay assured Gillmore that the President had no wish to hinder military operations. Hay said the only requirement for him personally was an order so he could go to Florida and open his voter books.

* * *

Gillmore jumped at the chance for a military campaign. His troops were bogged down before Charleston, S. C., with little hope of capturing the birthplace of secession. Only a week or so before he had proposed the same sort of expedition to Army chief Henry W. Halleck.

Now, with the blessing of the President, he put his plans into action. He set his objectives for the campaign: 1—to procure an outlet for cotton, timber, lumber, turpentine and other products; 2—to cut off one of the enemy's sources for commissary supplies; 3—to obtain recruits for Negro regiments, and he now added a fourth—to inaugurate measures for speedy restoration of Florida to the Union.

* * *

Gillmore put Brig. Gen. Truman Seymour's division on transports Feb. 6 and sailed for Jacksonville, Fla., which they occupied the next day. The division consisted of three brigades of infantry, two of cavalry and four batteries of artillery—about 8,000 men in all.

Jacksonville was half deserted and damaged from two other occupations but Hay got busy immediately.

First he offered Confederate prisoners in the guardhouse their choice of taking a loyalty oath or being sent North to prison camps.

"There is to be neither force nor persuasion used," he told them.

After much questioning and discussion half of them signed or made their marks.

In the first few days 60 Jacksonville citizens signed. Hay was optimistic.

* * *

Gillmore and the Navy were busy, too. Gunboats sailed up the St. John's River and occupied Picolata and Palatka. Union forces now held the coast and a strip inland from Fernandina, near the Georgia line, to St. Augustine—a territory about 25 miles wide and 70 long.

to order a withdrawal. The battle lasted about four hours.

Civil War Drama Under Way in France

By STEVEN GREENHOUSE

Special to The New York Times

CHERBOURG, France, June 24 — Mint juleps and Scarlett O'Hara do not jump to mind when people visit this gray, wind-swept port on the English Channel.

Nevertheless, Cherbourg hopes to become a magnet for Confederacy buffs thanks to the recent discovery of the wreck of the Alabama, one of the most noted ships of the Civil War. The Alabama, a much-feared Confederate privateer that plundered and sank 65 Union merchant ships, went down off Normandy on June 19, 1864, after a duel with the Union warship Kearsarge.

Cherbourg's 40,000 residents are eager to bring the Alabama to the surface and make it the centerpiece of a new museum, although some Southerners are already arguing that the vessel belongs somewhere below the Mason-Dixon line.

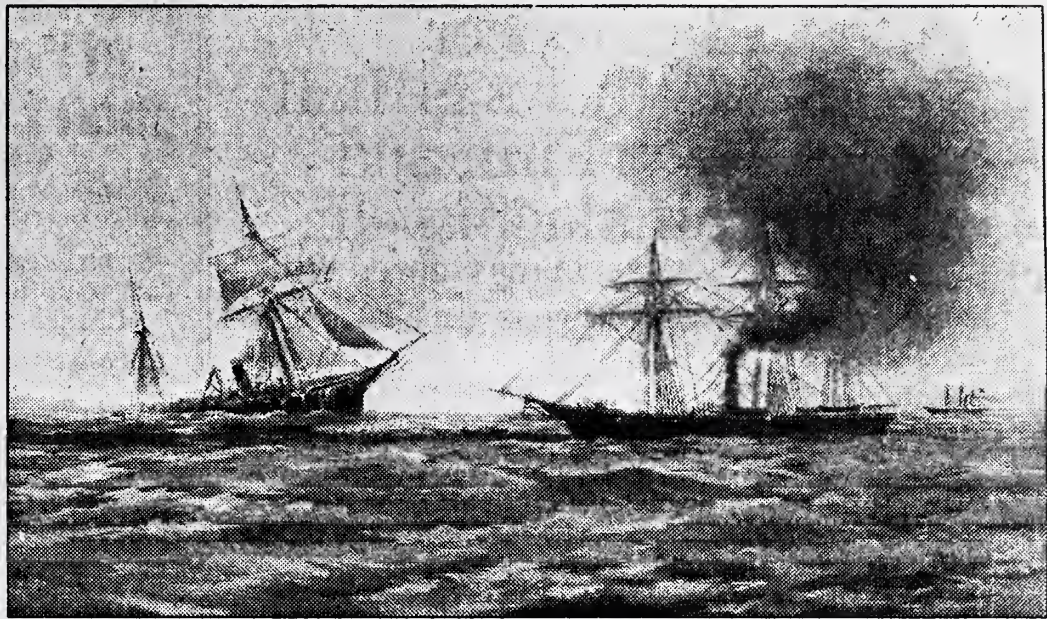
"It was by far the most important Confederate raider," said William N. Still, a maritime historian from East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., who came to Cherbourg to help explore the wreck. "The two most famous Civil War battles were the Monitor and the Merrimac and the Alabamagagastst the Kearsarge."

In October 1984, a French sonar ship discovered a hull that was thought might be that of the Alabama. But it was not until last November that Max Guérout, a marine archeologist, announced at a conference in Charleston, S.C., that French researchers had established that the wreck was indeed the Alabama.

Since mid-May, Mr. Guérout has headed a team of 20 divers and a submarine crew who have gone 190 feet down to map the site, study the condition of the Alabama and assess the prospects of bringing it to the surface. They have sketched and photographed the 16-foot smokestack, rusted cannons and pieces of china, as well as the decaying wooden hull, which is half-buried in the sand at a 30-degree angle seven miles offshore.

"The Alabama story is very prominent in local lore," Mr. Guérout said. "There aren't that many dramatic episodes in local history."

On the day the Alabama sank, thousands of



Battle of the Kearsarge and the Alabama off Cherbourg, France, as depicted by Xanthus Smith. The Alabama, a Confederate privateer, was sunk on June 19, 1864.

townspeople and visiting Parisians, parasols in hand, lined the docks to watch the battle. Paris's beau monde had poured into Cherbourg that Sunday for the opening of the town's casino.

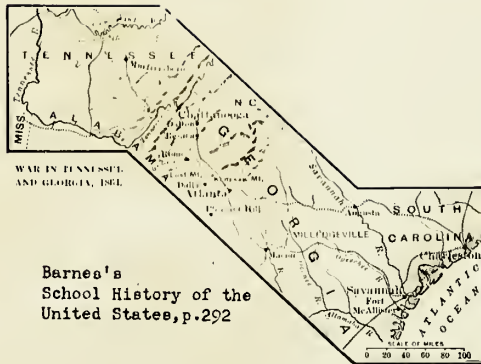
They watched as the Alabama and its more powerfully armed rival circled each other. Finally, the Alabama fired the first shot and for 70 minutes the cannons thundered. Eventually, the Alabama, its hull ripped open, tried to limp back to shore. The swifter Kearsarge cut off its path and the Alabama sank, with private yachts rescuing most of its crew.

Thus ended the two-year career of a vessel that terrorized Union trading ships from South Africa to Singapore and China. Because of the North's blockade, the Alabama never called at a Confederate port, even though Charleston was its official home base.



Continued on Page 18 (incomplete)

The New York Times/June 28, 1988



Barnea's
School History of the
United States, p.292

President Lincoln reviewed
troops at Fort Richardson
on the Tuesday before.

August 7 1864) 2

Soldiers Little subscribers
to Foundation but not published.

37
36. GEORGIA CAMPAIGN. After Chattanooga, Sherman came into chief command in the South and began his campaign through Georgia which occupied all of '64. and the spring of '65. His ruthless dsstruction of property in this famous "march to the sea," aroused the lasting enmity of the South.

5-35
VIRGINIA CAMPAIGN. After Gettysburg, the Virginia campaign became inactive. 29 Feb. 1864, congress made Grant Lieut. General and he became supreme commander. The duel between Grant and Lee began. 3 June 1864 Grant was repulsed with great loss at Cold Harbor, but with resistless might and determination he fought on, captured Richmond, forced the surrender of Lee, and ended the War.

In all these events, which he followed in detail, Lincoln was the one man most concerned. He fought with all his might to preserve and establish the Union.

5-38

38
37
f

GRANT MADE LIEUT. GENERAL

In presenting the Commission of Lieutenant-General to Grant, 9 March 1864, Lincoln said;: "With this high honor devolves upon you a corresponding responsibility. As the country trusts you so under God, it will sustain you."

Use Harper's Weekly 26 Mar. '64



40.
~~39.~~

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, MARCH, 1864.

This picture is from an unretouched negative. One of Grant was made at the same time, the picture having been made, it is said, to commemorate Grants Elevation to supreme command. Many critics consider this the best likeness of Lincoln extant.

(Use your 23 or make a better copy from this photogravure,)

5-42

42,
44.

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION. CHICAGO. 29 Aug. 1864

George B. McClellan was the Democratic nominee for President.
The meaningful cartoon from Harper's weekly for 3 Sept, shows the
spirit of the Democratic platform, which stood for compromise
and ^{the}surrender of victory and the principles of Lincoln.

Use Harper's Weekly 3 Sept. 1864

Copy

Executive Mansion.

Washington, Sept. 20, 1864.

Major General Sheridan
Winchester, Va.

Have just heard of your
great victory. God bless you all, officers
and men - strongly inclined to come up and
see you.

Lincoln

Executive Mansion

Washington, Oct 22, 1864

Major General Sheridan

With great pleasure I re-
spond to you and your brave army, the threat
of the Nation, and my own personal admi-
ration and gratitude, for the months of
operations in the Shenandoah Valley; and
especially for the splendid work of Octo-
ber 19, 1864.

Your Obedt Servt
Abraham Lincoln

5-39

39
38.

THE ELECTION 66 '64

Perhaps no phase of Lincoln's life more truly shows his greatness than the election of '64. The Republican or "Union" Convention met in Baltimore June 8th and unanimously nominated Lincoln. The cartoon, from Harper's Weekly for 17 Sept. represents Lincoln, who holds McClellan in the palm of his hand, as saying, "This reminds me of a little joke. " Barton, Charnwood, Morse and Tarbell, all give good accounts of the election. Nicolay's Abraham Lincoln is, perhaps, the best short life of Lincoln and treats this period interestingly. N/445ff.
pp. 445ff

Use Harper's Weekly Sept 17, '64

43.

42.

LETTER TO MRS. BIXBY. In Nov. '64 Lincoln wrote this letter to Mrs. Bixby, remarkable for its feeling and the beauty of composition. W. E. Barton has told the truth about this letter in "A Beautiful Blunder", 1926. Lincoln, of course supposed the facts of the case were in accord with the evidence upon which he acted. Two of the sons died in the war, one deserted, two survived.

Executive Mansion
Washington, Nov 21. 1864

To Mrs Birby, Boston, Mass.

Dear Madam.

I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom

Yours very sincerely and respectfully.

A. Lincoln.

Monocacy

For maps to accompany reading of
L. E. Chittenden's description of this battle and
his interpretation of Gen. Lee Wallace's valiant
resistance in saving Washington from
Early July '64

Atlas of Rec. I 27.1. for Monocacy

Battle of Steens - Ibid. II. 89-1

Thin map of Wash. with

U.S. Mil. Academy (Soldier's Home)

at-side. Scale: Large
(2" to mile, I
think. check.)

Map of Wash. (Oblique orientation)
Today (his color)

No scale

Showing Soldier's Home

Nat. Geog. Mar. 1915

Picture
Nat. G. Nov. '51
p. 600

Monocacy

